

I CLAIM:

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1. A multi-bit driver comprising:

- 5 (a) a longitudinally oriented housing including a bit chuck at one end;
- (b) a plurality of tool bits nested within said housing in a retracted position; and
- (c) an actuating means for selectively extending ^{said?} tool bits to an extended position
and retracting said tool bits to said retracted position, such that in the extended
position, said tool bits project from said bit chuck and are substantially
10 longitudinally aligned with said housing.

2. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 1, wherein said actuating means including said
tool bits and being operable to extend said tool bit from said retracted position to said
extended position by a single longitudinal motion of said actuating means.

15 3. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 2, wherein said longitudinal motion is effected
using a single finger or thumb pressure.

4. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 1, wherein said actuating means connected to
20 said tool bits being operable to retract said tool bits from said extended position to said

retracted position by a single longitudinal motion of said actuating means.

5. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 4, wherein said longitudinal motion is effected using a single finger or thumb pressure.

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6. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 1, wherein said actuating means operates to extend said tool bit by longitudinal motion in one direction and retract said tool bit by longitudinal motion in the opposite direction.

7. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 6, wherein said longitudinal motion is effected using a single finger or thumb pressure.

8. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 1, wherein said actuator means further includes at least one bit ^{or} assemblies having a flexible bit extension connected to each of said tool bits, said bit extensions for operatively urging said tool bits between said extended and retracted position and for aligning said tool bits with said bit chuck.

9. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 8, wherein said actuating means further includes at least one longitudinally aligned actuator channels defined in said housing corresponding to each bit assembly for guiding said bit assemblies slidably along a longitudinal direction.

10. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 9, further including a fastening means slidably connecting said bit assemblies to said actuator channels such that said bit assembly is guided slidably along said actuator channel.

5 11. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 10, wherein said fastening means comprises an actuator knob partially projecting externally of said housing for the application of finger pressure thereto, said actuator knob also for connecting a fastener end of said bit assembly to said actuator knob for operatively urging said bit assembly slidably along said actuator channel.

10 12. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing including a cone proximate said bit chuck having an interior guide surface for slidably guiding tool bits into alignment with said bit chuck as tool bits are urged into said extended position.

15 13. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 1, further including a guide means for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position.

20 14. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 13 wherein said guide means includes permanent

magnets mounted in the barrel of said housing for magnetically attracting said tool bits and for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position.

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15. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 1, further including a locking means for locking said tool bit in said extended position.

16. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 8, wherein said bit assemblies include a bit *diff. fr. flex ext of cl. 8?* extension connected to said tool bit with a connector.

17. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 16, wherein said bit extension being flexible in the radial direction and stiffer in the lateral direction.

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